

18 SEP 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Secretary of Defense

SUBJECT: Declassification of Specified Information
Relating to the National Reconnaissance
Office

1. Pursuant to the last proviso of Section 102(d)(3) of the National Security Act of 1947 and Section 4.2(a) of Executive Order 12356, I have determined that the following information relating to the National Reconnaissance Office no longer requires, and therefore no longer shall have, protection under a designated special access control system:

(a) There is a National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) organized as an agency of the Department of Defense and funded through a program known as the National Reconnaissance Program (NRP), which is the single, national program to meet U.S. Government intelligence needs through spaceborne and assigned airborne reconnaissance.

(b) The mission of the NRO is to ensure that the U.S. has the technology and spaceborne and airborne assets needed to acquire intelligence world-wide, including to support such functions as monitoring of arms control agreements, indications and warning and the planning and conduct of military operations. The NRO accomplishes the mission through research and development, acquisition, and operation of spaceborne and airborne data collection systems.

(c) The Secretary of Defense has the ultimate responsibility, which is exercised in concert with the Director of Central Intelligence, for management and operation of the NRO and the Director of the NRO reports to the Secretary. The Director of Central Intelligence establishes the collection priorities and requirements for the targeting of NRP operations and the frequency of

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CL BY: Signer
DECL: Unclassified When
Final Declassification
Action is Taken by DCI
and Secretary of Defense

Approved for Release
FEB 2000

b(3)

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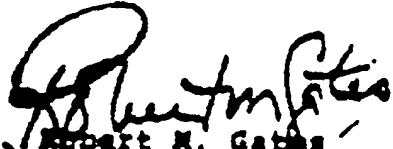
coverage, approves along with the Secretary of Defense the NRP budget, provides security policy guidance for the NRP, and guides and participates in the formulation of the NRP through the Director of the NRO. The Director of the NRO has responsibility for executing the NRO's programs, which the Director accomplishes through the Department of Defense and Central Intelligence Agency.

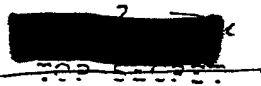
(d) The Director of the NRO is Martin C. Faga. The Deputy Director of the NRO is Mr. Jimmie D. Hill. The Deputy Director of NRO for Military Support is Rear Admiral Daniel P. March, USN.

(e) The mailing address of the Director of the NRO is:

The Honorable Martin C. Faga
Director
National Reconnaissance Office
The Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301 - 1000 .

2. I recommend that we declassify the above information. In my judgment, disclosure of the information would not cause damage to the national security.


Robert M. Gates
Director of Central Intelligence


TOP SECRET